

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to clarify that the penultimate rinse cycle is a cold rinse cycle (supported, for example, at page 11, lines 7-8) while the final rinse cycle is a heated rinse cycle (supported, for example, at page 11, lines 9-10). This change is intended to highlight how the subject invention relates to dosing into a penultimate, cool rinse cycle while, as applicants will point out in more detail below, the art discloses addition of anti-scalant only to a heated, final rinse step. That is, it is clear in the art that anti-scalants are added always in the final (heated) step and there is no appreciation of what would happen if added in a penultimate (i.e., cold water) rinse step.

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to correct a typographical error noted by the Examiner. Finally, applicants have amended claim 3 to again point out the final rinse is a heated water rinse step.

Applicants believe the amendment to the claims overcomes the objection to the claims based on misspelling of word "material" and it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that EP 851,022 does teach the limitation of using anti-scaling polymer in the penultimate rinse cycle (the Examiner actually combines the "penultimate/final" cycle together). The Examiner states that the reference discloses that "the rinse aid composition is designed for use in the final rinse steps of the machine" Similarly, the Examiner argues that U.S. 6,210,600 discloses use of anti-scalant in the penultimate rinse cycle because the claim at column 17 recites that "the rinse aid is introduced during the rinse cycle..." This rejection is respectfully traversed for reasons set forth below.

There is no clear teaching in the EP reference or in U.S. 6,210,600 to Zhou et al. that rinse aid is added during the penultimate (i.e., cold rinse) cycle. On the contrary, all the evidence shows or suggests that, when Zhou refers to the rinse cycle, it is referring to the final (hot rinse) cycle.

Specifically, it is first noted that the quote the Examiner refers to ("A rinse aid is designed for use....") does not state that the aid is designed for use in the final rinse steps (plural), but states it is designed for use in the final rinse step (singular). Thus, it is clear that the final rinse step is literally the final (not penultimate) rinse step. In further determining what the step refers to, it is convenient to refer to U.S. Patent 6,210,600, which is the U.S. equivalent of the EP publication. Here it is clear that all examples given involve dosage into the final rinse. Further, it is stated at page 1, lines 50-52 that high temperature exacerbates the scaling problem. A temperature of 55°C was employed in all examples of 6,210,600.

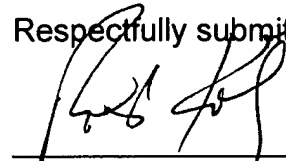
By contrast, the penultimate step is a cold rinse step. Thus, it is clear that the examples of the art are directed to a heated, final rinse (the final rinse step) rather than a cold water, penultimate step. To highlight this point, as noted, applicants have amended the claims accordingly.

In view of the amendments and discussion above, it is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection of the claims, as amended.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made"**.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A mechanical dishwashing composition comprising:
 - (A) an anti-scaling polymer formed from
 - (i) 50 to 99% by weight of the polymer of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic monomer;
 - (ii) 1 to 50% of at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of copolymerizable sulfonated monomers, copolymerizable nonionic monomers and mixtures thereof;
 - (B) 0.1 to 99.9% of a vehicle designed to release at least an effective amount of the polymer to prevent scaling ;

wherein said polymer is released into a cold, penultimate rinse cycle preceding a heated, final rinse cycle of a dishwashing sequence;

wherein said vehicle of (B) is defined as (1) the sum of all components forming said composition except for said antiscaling polymer; or (2) an encapsulating ~~material~~ material or other slow release protective chemical or device.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Twice amended) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said vehicle is designed to further release at least an effective amount of the polymer into a heated final rinse of the dishwashing cycle to prevent scaling.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Twice amended) A method for washing soiled dishes comprising charging a mechanical dishwashing composition to a wash liquor in a washing machine, the composition comprising:
 - (A) an anti-scaling polymer formed from
 - (i) 50 to 99% by weight of the polymer of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;
 - (ii) 1 to 50% of at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of copolymerizable sulfonated monomers, copolymerizable nonionic monomers and mixtures thereof;
 - (B) 0.1 to 99.9% of a vehicle designed to release at least an effective amount of the polymer to prevent scaling;

wherein said vehicle of B is defined as (1) the sum of all components forming said composition except for said anti-scaling polymer; or (2) an encapsulating material or other slow release protective chemical or device;

wherein said method comprises ~~changing~~ charging said dishwashing composition to a cold, penultimate rinse cycle preceding a heated, final rinse cycle of a dishwashing sequence.